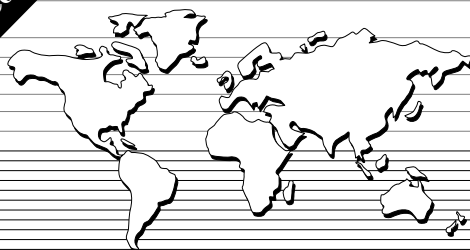




U.S. Department of the Treasury
Office of Foreign Assets Control



LIBYA

What You Need To Know About The U.S. Embargo

An overview of the Libyan Sanctions Regulations -- Title 31 Part 550 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations

■ **INTRODUCTION** - The Libyan Sanctions Regulations, authorized under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985, established economic sanctions against Libya in January 1986. Citing terrorist attacks against the Rome and Vienna airports in December 1985, former President Reagan emphasized that he had authorized the sanctions in response to Libya's repeated use and support of terrorism against the United States, other countries, and innocent persons. The Regulations are still in force and affect all U.S. citizens and permanent residents wherever they are located, all people and organizations physically in the United States, and all branches of U.S. organizations throughout the world. They are administered by the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control.

Criminal penalties for violating the sanctions range up to 10 years in prison, \$500,000 in corporate and \$250,000 in individual fines. In addition, civil penalties of up to \$11,000 per violation may be imposed administratively.

This fact sheet is a broad overview of the Libyan Sanctions Regulations.

■ **BUYING FROM LIBYA** - Goods or services of Libyan origin may not be imported into the United States either directly or through third countries. There are two exceptions: (1) Libyan-origin personal effects, including gifts limited in value to \$400 per person per trip, provided that such items are not intended for resale or otherwise prohibited from importation and (2) qualifying informational material may be imported without restriction.

■ **SELLING TO LIBYA** - Except for informational materials, such as books, magazines, films, and recordings and donated articles such as food, clothing, medicine, and medical supplies intended to relieve human suffering, and the licensed export of agricultural commodities, medicine and medical devices, no goods, technology, or services may be exported from the United States to Libya, either directly or through third countries. No U.S. bank or foreign branch of a U.S. bank may finance, or arrange offshore financing for, third-country trade transactions where Libya is known to have an interest in the trade as its ultimate beneficiary. The U.S. Treasury Department takes the view that arranging transactions which ultimately benefit Libya (for example, brokering third-country sales of Libyan crude oil or transportation for Libyan cargo) constitutes an exportation of brokerage services to Libya and a dealing in Libyan governmental property in violation of the Regulations. Banks should be careful, for example, not to become involved in transactions relating to shipments to or from South Korea involving ultimate delivery of merchandise to the Great Man-Made River Project in Libya. The only areas of trade that may involve Libya and still be permissible are: (1) the sale of parts and components to third countries, where the U.S. goods will be "substantially transformed" into new and different articles of commerce prior to shipment to Libya, and (2) the sale of goods which come to rest in the inventory of a third-country distributor whose sales are not predominantly to Libya.

Even the first of those exceptions is not available if the finished product of the third country is destined for use in any aspect of the Libyan petroleum or petrochemical industries.

■ **SPECIALLY DESIGNATED NATIONALS** - Individuals or organizations who act on behalf of the Government of Libya anywhere in the world are considered by the U.S. Treasury Department to be "Specially Designated Nationals" of Libya. Their names are published in the Federal Register, an official publication of the U.S. Government. A listing of such Specially Designated Nationals may be obtained by calling the Office of Foreign Assets Control at 202/622-2420. The listing, however, is a partial one and any U.S. individual or organization engaging in transactions with foreign nationals must take reasonable care to make certain that such foreign nationals are not acting on behalf of Libya. The list includes certain banks domiciled in Europe and Africa as well as the names of individuals who are officers and directors of substantial international corporations. U.S. individuals or organizations who violate the Regulations by transacting business with Specially Designated Nationals of Libya may be subject to civil or criminal prosecution.

■ **LIBYAN GOVERNMENT ASSETS BLOCKED** - On January 8, 1986, the President blocked all Government of Libya assets in the United States or in the possession or control of U.S. persons anywhere in the world. This action prohibits all transfers of Libyan governmental assets without a specific license from the Office of Foreign Assets Control. All contracts, loans, and financial dealings with Libya are prohibited. The freeze covers all properties of the Libyan Government, and of entities owned or controlled by it, including all Libyan-organized and Libyan-owned or controlled banks (all banks in Libya are considered Government-controlled) and includes deposits held in banks in the United States and in U.S. banks' overseas branches. The prohibition against any transfer of property or interest in the property of Libya includes property that is now or in the future is located in the United States or is in or comes into the possession or control of U.S. persons. Any unlicensed funds transfer involving a direct or indirect interest of the Government of Libya (including any transfer routed through or to Libyan banks, all of which are considered to be Specially Designated Nationals of Libya), for which banks subject to U.S. jurisdiction receive instructions, must be deposited into a blocked account on the books of the bank receiving the instructions. Such funds may not be returned to a remitter without a specific license from the Office of Foreign Assets Control. No unlicensed debits may be made to blocked Libyan accounts to pay obligations of U.S. or other persons, whether the obligations arose before or after the sanctions against Libya were imposed. Even payments from blocked accounts for goods, services, or technology exported prior to the sanctions program are prohibited.

■ **FINANCIAL DEALINGS WITH LIBYA** - Financial transactions, including trade financing, are generally prohibited. Payments for and financing of licensed sales of agricultural commodities, medicine and medical devices may be accomplished by cash in advance, sales on open

account (provided the account receivable is not transferred by the person extending the credit), or by third country financial institutions that are neither U.S. persons nor government of Libya entities. Any other arrangements must be specifically authorized by OFAC. U.S. banks may advise and confirm letters of credit issued by third country banks covering licensed sales.

Payments for licensed sales of agricultural commodities, medicine and medical devices, which must reference an appropriate OFAC license, may not involve a debit to a blocked account on the books of a U.S. depository institution. Before a U.S. bank initiates a payment, or credits its customer for a licensed transaction, it must determine that the transfer is authorized.

■ **CONTRACTS BENEFITTING LIBYA** - No U.S. person may perform any contract in support of an industrial or other commercial or governmental project in Libya. The prohibition includes sales or service agreements with non-Libyan persons located anywhere in the world, if it is known that Libya or a Libyan project will benefit from the transaction. Banks subject to U.S. jurisdiction must exercise extreme caution not to operate accounts for even non-U.S. companies which use those accounts for transactions connected with Libyan projects or commercial activities. Any such accounts must be blocked under U.S. law.

■ **TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING U.S. SUBSIDIARIES** - Independent transactions with Libya by foreign subsidiaries of U.S. firms are permitted if no U.S. person or permanent resident has a role. It should be emphasized that the facilitating actions of the U.S. parent, or of U.S. citizens (wherever resident) who manage or work for the subsidiary, are fully subject to the prohibitions of the Regulations.

■ **STANDBY LETTERS OF CREDIT** - A number of companies were required to open bid, performance, advance payment, or warranty bonds in the form of standby letters of credit to do business with Libya before the Libyan sanctions were imposed. Special procedures have been established with regard to payment demands under standby letters of credit in favor of Libya. Banks must "give prompt notice" to the party who opened the letter of credit (the account party) when there is an attempted drawing. The account party then has five days to apply to the Office of Foreign Assets

Control for a specific license to prevent "payment" of the letter of credit into a blocked account. A bank may not make any payment, even into a blocked account, on behalf of a Libyan beneficiary unless the account party fails to secure a Treasury license within 10 business days of notification from the bank. If the account party receives a license from the Treasury Department, the original of the license should be presented to the bank and a special blocked reserve account must be established on the account party's corporate books to reflect its outstanding obligation to Libya in lieu of the bank "paying" the letter of credit. The account party must certify to the Treasury Department that it has established the blocked reserve account. Neither the bank nor the account party are relieved from giving any notice of defense against payment or reimbursement that is required by applicable law. Moreover, the issuing bank must continue to maintain the letter of credit as a contingent liability on its own books, despite any reserve account established by the account party and, in the event the embargo is lifted, both the bank and the account party will be expected to negotiate concerning their outstanding obligation.

■ **TRAVEL TO AND RESIDENCY WITHIN LIBYA** - Transactions associated with travel to, from Libya, or within Libya, including the importation of accompanied baggage for strictly personal use, payment of maintenance and living expenses, and the acquisition of goods or services for personal use are permitted. Transactions related to the arrangement or facilitation of such travel are permitted, including transactions with Libyan carriers. Since payments involving Libyan banks remain prohibited, such transactions will need to be in cash or by debit or credit to accounts held at third country banks that are not the accounts of Libyan banks. In addition, U.S. persons may not use U.S. issued credit cards to pay for these transactions with the exception of payments to non-Libyan carriers. The form of payment to U.S. travel service providers for such bookings is not restricted. While U.S. persons may open and maintain accounts at financial institutions in Libya to pay for their maintenance, residence and travel-related expenses while in Libya, such accounts may be funded only in cash or from accounts maintained at non-U.S. non-Libyan offshore banks.

If you have information regarding possible violations of any of these regulations, please call the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control at 202/622-2430. Your call will be handled confidentially.

LICENSE APPLICATION GUIDELINES FOR EXPORTS TO IRAN, LIBYA AND SUDAN OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, MEDICINE, AND MEDICAL DEVICES

Ag/Med Program

The following information is intended to serve as guidance to persons applying for licenses authorizing Ag/Med exports to Iran, Libya, and Sudan pursuant to, respectively, the Iranian Transactions Regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 560, the Libyan Sanctions Regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 550, and the Sudanese Sanctions Regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 538. Applicants are encouraged to consult the regulations for a complete statement of the rules applicable to Ag/Med exports.

Applications not containing all of the required information will be considered incomplete and returned without action and without prejudice. A new application will be accepted upon resubmission of a complete application.

To apply for a license to export agricultural commodities, medicine, or medical devices to Iran, Libya, or Sudan under the Ag/Med Program, applicants must submit a license request, in writing, to the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). The following items must be included in clear and legible form:

- Identification of the country and program for which the applicant is requesting a license on the top of the first page of the application and on the front of the envelope. (Example: **Iran – Ag/Med Program**). If the applicant wishes to submit applications for two or more countries, a separate application must be submitted for each country;
- Applicant's full legal name (If the applicant is a business entity, the state or jurisdiction of incorporation and principal place of business);
- Applicant's mailing and street address;
- Name of the individual(s) responsible for the application and related commercial transactions, including the individual's/individuals' telephone number, fax number, and if available, email address so that we may reach a responsible point of contact should there be any questions about the application;
- Applicant's signature;
- Names and addresses of all parties involved in the transactions and their roles, including financial institutions, and any Iranian, Libyan, or Sudanese broker, purchasing agent, end-user, or other participant in the purchase of the agricultural commodities, medicine, or medical devices;
- A description of all products to be exported, including a statement that the product(s) is/are classified as EAR99, and documentation and information sufficient to verify that the product(s) to be exported are classified as EAR99 and are eligible for exportation under the Ag/Med program. This would typically include the name of the product(s), a short description of the product(s) in layperson's terms (for medical devices, also include technical specifications), the intended use of the agricultural commodities, medicine, or medical devices, and a statement explaining how the product(s) to be exported qualifies/qualify as an agricultural commodity, medicine, or medical device as those terms are defined in the regulations.
- Exporters must have a commodity classification of EAR99 for all products that are eligible in this Ag/Med program. Exporters of all fertilizers, live horses, and western red cedar must submit to OFAC a copy of an Official BXA Commodity Classification of EAR99 as part of the license application (because certain of these items are controlled on the Commerce Control List and thus are not eligible for this program). Exporters of medical devices also must provide OFAC with an Official BXA Commodity Classification of EAR99, unless the proposed export is for a medical supply and that medical supply is specifically listed as eligible for export under the Ag/Med program on BXA's website at <http://>

the Ag/Med program. Exporters of agricultural commodities may wish to consult the following USDA website: www.fas.usda.gov for a list of agricultural commodities that qualify for export under the Ag/Med program.

Please note: Payment by cash in advance, open account financing, or third-country bank letter of credit is authorized by general license. A special request will have to be made to use a letter of credit issued by an Iranian, Libyan, or Sudanese bank. Upon such a request, payment by letter of credit issued by an Iranian, Libyan, or Sudanese bank may be authorized by specific license on a case-by-case basis, provided that such letter of credit may not be advised, confirmed or otherwise dealt in by any financial institution that is a United States person (see, 31 C.F.R. §§ 560.314, 560.532; 31 C.F.R. §§ 550.308, 550.571; 31 C.F.R. §§ 538.315, 538.525).

The application should be mailed to the address below.

**Attn: Licensing Division
Office of Foreign Assets Control
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220**

In order to expedite the process, applicants may also send a complete copy of their application in Adobe Acrobat PDF format to the following email address:

agmed@do.treas.gov

Applicants who choose to send a copy of their application via Internet **must** also send a hard copy of their application in order for OFAC to process their application. Applicants should note that the official date of receipt for their application will be the date the hard copy of the application is received by OFAC via mail.

The hard copy of all licenses will be mailed to applicants. Upon request, applicants may receive via email a copy of their license in Adobe Acrobat PDF format.

This document is explanatory only and does not have the force of law. The Executive Orders and implementing regulations relating to Libya contain the legally binding provisions governing the sanctions and this document does not supplement or modify those Executive Orders or regulations.

The Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control also administers sanctions programs involving Iraq, certain targets in the Western Balkans, Cuba, North Korea, Iran, Syria, Sudan, diamond trading, highly enriched uranium, designated international Terrorists and Narcotics Traffickers, Foreign Terrorist Organizations, designated foreign persons who have engaged in activities relating to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and Burma (Myanmar). For additional information about these programs or about the Libyan Sanctions Regulations, please contact the:

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202/622-2520
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